

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. ALL PAPERS WITHOUT EXCEPTION BANNER ASPECTS OF SECRETARY'S VISITS TO ARAB CAPITALS AS REPORTED BY WIRE SERVICES. IN ORDER OF RELATIVE EMPHASIS, THESE ARE: (A) NEWS OF EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI ACCEPTANCE OF A FIVE-POINT U.S. PLAN TO STRENGTHEN CEASE-FIRE AND FACILITATE MOVE TOWARDS PEACE; (B) PROSPECTS FOR HOLDING PEACE CONFERENCE IN NEAR FUTURE; (C) SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH KING FEISAL. COMMUNIST PARTY ORGAN AN-NIDA AGAIN STRIKES NEGATIVE NOTE BY BANNERING: "KISSINGER REFUSES TO 'GO INTO DETAILS' AND TALK ABOUT ISRAEL'S POSITION."

2. PRO-CAIRO PAPERS ALSO BANNER NEED FOR QUICK ACTION. AL-ANWAR, IN ARTICLE BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN CAIRO, WRITES: "SOURCES HERE SAY THAT EGYPT GAVE AMERICA DEADLINE NOT EXCEEDING FEW DAYS TO PROVE IT INTENDS AND IS ABLE TO BRING ISRAEL TO PULL BACK TO OCT. 22 LINES. IF THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN, KISSINGER'S VISIT TO CAIRO WILL HAVE BEEN USELESS." AL-YOUM, QUOTING STATEMENTS OF SPOKESMAN AHMED ANIS, BANNERS: "EGYPT REJECTS DELAY AND INSISTS ON IMMEDIATE MOVES."

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3. EDITORIAL COMMENT IS NOTICEABLY MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN IT

WAS YESTERDAY, ALTHOUGH CAUTION IS STILL EVIDENT. LEADING INDEPENDENT ARABIC AN-NAHAR WRITES: "HISTORY OF MIDEAST QUESTION BEARS EXCELLENT WITNESS TO FACT THAT DELAY IS WORST ALLY OF THOSE WHO TRY TO SOLVE THIS QUESTION. DR. KISSINGER KNOWS ALL OF THIS, SO HE HAS ALLIED HIMSELF TO SPEED, NOT TO DELAY. PERHAPS THIS IS SECRET OF HIS SUCCESS. UNLESS SOME SURPRISE SHOWS EXISTENCE OF CONTRADICTION BETWEEN WHAT EGYPT HAS ACCEPTED AND WHAT ISRAEL HAS SAID IT HAS ACCEPTED, AMERICAN SECRETARY WILL BE ABLE TO SAY THAT IN LESS THAN ONE WEEK HE HAS ACHIEVED A SUCCESS WHICH SUGGESTS THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO SOLVE THAT WHICH HAS ELUDED SETTLEMENT FOR A QUARTER CENTURY."

4. LEADING INDEPENDENT FRENCH L'ORIENT-LE JOUR COMMENTS: SPECTACULAR RETURN OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY TO VERY HEART OF MOST PRESTIGIOUS OF ARAB CAPITALS CONSTITUTES A 'COMEBACK' FOR WASHINGTON WHICH IS NOT WITHOUT ITS RISKS, FOR IF RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS IS NOT FOLLOWED BY RESULTS, 'DIE-HARD' CAMP WILL VERY QUICKLY REGAIN UPPER HAND AND U.S. INTERESTS IN REGION WILL THEN BE VERY SERIOUSLY THREATENED. . . . EVERYONE THUS HAS INTEREST IN NOT LETTING THINGS DRAG ON TOO LONG. . . . MRS. MEIR HAS LEARNED THAT, FOR HER, WAR CAN NO LONGER BE WAGED -- NOR ESPECIALLY WON -- WITHOUT AN AMERICA READY TO SUPPORT IT WITH ALL ITS POWER. BUT IS WASHINGTON STILL WILLING TO PLAY THIS ROLE? MR. KISSINGER, BY HIS ACTS, SEEMS TO HAVE ALREADY REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE. IT REMAINS FOR ISRAELIS TO ADMIT IT AND DRAW OBVIOUS CONCLUSIONS."

5. COMMUNIST PARTY ORGAN AN-NIDA, CONTINUING ITS RECENT LINE IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "STRUGGLE AGAINST AMERICA MUST CONTINUE", COMMENTS : "NONE OF AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER'S STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS, BEFORE AND AFTER HIS TRIP TO EGYPT AND RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS, GIVES ANY INDICATION OF ANY CHANGE IN AMERICA'S POLICY OR ATTITUDE TOWARDS ARAB CAUSE. . . . STEP OF RESUMING RELATIONS WITH AMERICA IS IN ITS INTEREST AND ITS INTEREST ALONE. . . . STEP CAME AT TIME WHICH FOUND NIXON IN WEAKEST POSITION HE HAS EVEN KNOWN. THIS POSTULATES . . . ESCALATION OF PRESSURE AGAINST AMERICAN TO FORCE IT TO RETREAT." UNCLASSIFIED

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